

Wednesday Encouragement

11/4/20

I get really excited about the big events we host here at New Life, especially the ones that are kid-focused. This Friday, we'll host our Trunk-or-Treat event and we're going to have a blast! I cannot say thank you enough to everyone who has contributed in any way, everyone who has signed up to help, and anyone who has invited a friend, family-member, neighbor, etc.

But there is a question that comes up from time to time about events like this that I want to answer for you today: are events like this worth it? Is it worth our time? Is it worth our effort? Is it worth the cost?

My simple answer to that question is: yes.

That's my answer for a number of reasons. Chief among those is that I'm certain that at least one family will step onto our property for the first time on Friday night and spend at least a little bit of time with us. And that matters. It's also likely that at least one family will step onto our property on Friday night for a kids event that would not otherwise come to New Life for a Sunday service or other event. And that matters. We know, historically speaking, that our carnival (which this event is replacing for this year) has been an event that has given families the boost they need to check out a Sunday service. And that matters.

But I want to share with you a reason that really has nothing to do with New Life specifically. We're living in a world and in a culture where a lot of people look back on their childhood church experience and don't consider it a positive thing. Now there are a lot of reasons for that, but no matter the reason, it's sad.

With an event like this, we have an opportunity to show kids in our community that we care enough about them to put time and effort into making sure they have fun. To show them that churches, and specifically, Christians, care about them. No, it's not likely that we'll have too many opportunities for gospel conversations during Trunk-or-Treat, but think of it this way: If we can give each kid who comes on Friday a good memory at a church facility, a good memory spending time with Christians, how much more favorably might they view the idea of church ongoing? How much more open might they remain to an invitation to a service or another event? How many of those families might honestly be looking for a place to belong and find it here beginning on Friday?

Friday is not about how awesome we can be at putting on events. It's really about creating space for interaction and conversation that might not otherwise happen. So if you're not planning to serve or to come and bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids, or whoever, I challenge you to change your mind. If you're serving or coming and bringing kids, I want to challenge you to be ready. Ready to smile (even behind a mask). Ready to meet someone you've never met before. Ready to make sure everyone is having a good time. Ready to represent Jesus to our community. And ready to trust that God can do amazing things even through something like Trunk-or-Treat.

We can't wait to see you there!

Kraig